

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00 /084 W
-----041737Z 069357 /43

O R 041721Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9137
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T LONDON 00044

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, UK
SUBJECT: MBFR: TABLING OF RED DATA

REF: A. STATE 313916; B. MBFR VIENNA 0622

1. AS INSTRUCTED, WE CALLED ON TERENCE WOOD AT THE
FOREIGN OFFICE JANUARY 4 TO DISCUSS TABLING OF RED
DATA. WE DREW ON PARAS 2-7 REFTEL A AND LEFT PAPER
CONTAINING THOSE ARGUMENTS.

2. AS WASHINGTON KNOWS, WE HAVE WALTZED THIS WALTZ
WITH THE BRITISH A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS, INCLUDING AT THE TRILATERAL MEETING
IN LONDON. THUS WOOD AND HMG ARE FULLY FAMILIAR WITH
US POSITION.

3. WOOD SAID THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE IN
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US AND UK VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. BOTH THE FCO AND MOD
ACCEPT WASHINGTON'S ARGUMENTS THAT WESTERN CHANCES FOR
CONDUCTING A PRODUCTIVE DATA DISCUSSION WITH THE OTHER
SIDE WOULD BE REDUCED IF WE TABLED RED DATA, A STEP THE
EAST WOULD REGARD AS PROVOCATIVE.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE BRITISH DO NOT UNDERSTAND US

RELUCTANCE TO FORWARD THE UPDATED RED DATA TO VIENNA. WOOD POINTED OUT THAT THE AHG HAS NOT INDICATED A DESIRE TO TABLE RED DATA. RATHER, IT HAS REQUESTED THAT RED DATA BE AVAILABLE IN VIENNA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND TO BE USED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AHG SHOULD THE NEED ARISE (REFTEL B). THAT NEED WOULD OCCUR IN THE EVENT OF CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE EAST IS NOT INTERESTED IN A SERIOUS COUNTING RULES DISCUSSION AND A SUSTAINED SOVIET ASSERTION THAT FIGURES NOW ON THE TABLE IN VIENNA SHOW APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. IN THIS REGARD, WOOD MENTIONED TARASOV'S DISCOURAGING IMPROMPTU REMARK IN PLENARY AT THE END OF THE LAST ROUND THAT THE PROPOSED DATA DISCUSSION WOULD REMOVE DISTRACTIONS SUCH AS SO-CALLED DISPARITIES AND ASYMETRICAL REDUCTIONS IF THE OTHER SIDE MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION AND THUS PLACES THE ALLIES IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS TACTICAL POSITION. HMG BELIEVES THE AHG SHOULD BE ARMED WITH RED DATA. WOOD ASKED, WHY NOT GET THE RED FIGURES THROUGH THE BRUSSELS MACHINERY AND LEAVE IT TO THE GOOD SENSE OF THE AHG WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE TABLED? A PREAMBLE TO THE BRUSSELS GUIDANCE TO THE AHG COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT RED DATA SHOULD BE PUT DOWN ONLY IF CIRCUMSTANCES IN VIENNA SO DEMANDED. THERE CERTAINLY NEED BE NO AUTOMATICITY TO THE TABLING.

5. WE ASKED WOOD TO THINK IT OVER ONCE AGAIN. AFTER ALL, THE UNFAVORABLE TACTICAL SITUATION HE FEARED HAD NOT YET ARISEN IN VIENNA. IF IT DID, IF THE COUNTING

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DISCUSSION WENT SOUR, THE ALLIES COULD THEN DECIDE IN BRUSSELS WHETHER TABLING RED DATA WAS THE PROPER RESPONSE. WE STRESSED THAT WE HOPED HMG WOULD SUPPORT THE US POSITION IN NATO DISCUSSIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE, AS HE HAD INDICATED, THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US.

6. WOOD CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH MOD AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE OFFICIAL HMG REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT, HE HOPED THAT THE US PRESENTATION AT NATO WOULD INCLUDE REASONS WHY TABLING OF RED DATA COULD NOT BE LEFT TO DISCRETION OF THE AHG, AS WELL AS THE ARGUMENTS IN PARAS 2-7 REFTEL.

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Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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